

October 2, 2013

The regular Planning/Action Meeting of the Board of Education of the Freeport Union Free School District was held on Wednesday, October 2, 2013, in the cafeteria of the Caroline G. Atkinson Intermediate School. Debra Mulé, President of the Board of Education, called the meeting to order at 7:40 p.m. She then led the pledge of allegiance.

Those present were: Ms. Debra Mulé, President
Ms. Vilma Lancaster, Vice President
Mr. Ronald Ellerbe, Trustee
Mr. Anthony J. Miller, Trustee
Mr. Michael Pomerico, Trustee

Absent were: none

Also present were: Dr. Kishore Kuncham, Superintendent of Schools
Dr. Mary Bediako, Assistant Superintendent for Personnel,
Special Projects & District Clerk
Mr. Gerard Poole, Assistant Superintendent for
Curriculum and Instruction
Mr. James Robinson, Executive Director for Business
Mr. Michael Singleton, Executive Director of Operations

Also absent were: none

The number of people in the audience at the opening of the meeting was 32.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Kuncham welcomed everyone to the meeting. He thanked the Board, Administrators, staff and children for their participation in the annual Peace Concert which combines two international events, International Peace Day and International Day of Non-Violence.

Alan Yu, from Cullen and Danowski, presented the findings of the internal audit for 2012-2013 in accordance with government standards. He stated that the annual audit is conducted using the auditing standards issued by the AICPA and Government auditing standards. He reported that their firm was happy to give Freeport School District an "unqualified opinion" report also known as a clear opinion on the district's financial statements. This is the highest opinion a district can receive. He also stated that they were required by Governmental Auditing Standards to report on the District's internal controls over financial reporting and compliance with laws and regulations. He stated that based on results of the audit, they did not find material weaknesses in the District internal controls or material findings of noncompliance. In his opinion, the district is in good standing with its finances. He indicated that the auditors reviewed, analyzed and tested Freeport's internal controls and felt the

monitoring and segregation of duties, along with the positive fund balance and AA Bond Rating by Standard and Poors, were very positive. He thanked the Superintendent, his Administration and personnel for their assistance and cooperation during the audit. Dr. Kuncham also thanked Mr. Yu, Mr. Robinson, Ms. Miao and the entire Business Office Staff for their hard work in completing the 2013 external audit.

Educational and Fiscal Challenges

Dr. Kuncham introduced Mr. Gerald Poole, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction who gave a power point presentation regarding the 3rd through 8th grade New York State test scores and the educational challenges facing the District with the introduction of the new Common Core State Assessments. Principal Amanda Muldowney, Principal Johane Ligondé, and Principal Connie Velez spoke about Action Plans, Goal Setting for Students and Action Plans for English Language Learners and Special Education Students.

Mr. James Robinson, Executive Director for Business continued with the Power Point Presentation regarding the fiscal challenges facing the District. (the power point presentation for the Educational and Fiscal challenges presented by Mr. Poole and Mr. Robinson is attached)

The Superintendent summarized the presentation as follows;

Freeport Public Schools have very real educational and budget challenges. The Tax Levy Cap, ongoing Gap Elimination Adjustment, tax certiorari, assessments, the Affordable Care Act and the shift in base proportions are all impacting the District's budget.

He commended the Board of Education for making the decision to challenge the State for the inequities in funding education in New York, with the assistance of REFIT, by joining a lawsuit initiated by the Teachers Union and more than 32 other Districts.

He pointed out that Freeport has lost more than \$31 million dollars in aid that was owed to the District over the last four years through the Gap Elimination Adjustment (GEA). The GEA is nothing more than the State plugging the hole in their budget on the backs of our students.

He asked parents to get involved now. Policy makers have heard enough from Teachers and Administrators. They need to hear from parents. Advocacy must start now because without any real change the children will be negatively impacted. On the Elementary level class sizes are almost at 30 and class sizes are also up on the secondary level. Dr. Kuncham asked parents to advocate for the elimination of the GEA, Tax Cap reform and unfreezing of the Foundation Aid. He indicated that there is nothing left in the budget to cut and he implored the Board to consider piercing the cap for the 2014-2015 budget.

Questions from the Public

The public was given the opportunity to address the Board of Education. Each speaker was allowed to address the Board for four minutes on any topic. The Board and administration addressed the comments from the public.

Items for Action

On a motion by Mr. Pomerico and a seconded by Mr. Miller the following item was approved:

CSE/CPSE Minutes

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Freeport Union Free School District hereby accepts the minutes of the meetings of the committees on special education and preschool special education for the following dates:

September 1, 12, 18, 19, 2013

The vote was unanimous, Ellerbe, Lancaster, Miller, Mulé and Pomerico.

On a motion by Ms. Lancaster and a seconded by Mr. Miller the following item was approved:

Acceptance of the 2012-2013 External Audit Report

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Freeport Union Free School District hereby accepts the Financial Audit Report for the fiscal year 2012-2013 as prepared by our independent external auditors.

The vote was unanimous, Ellerbe, Lancaster, Miller, Mulé and Pomerico

Executive Session

At 9:15 p.m. Mr. Ellerbe moved to adjourn to executive session for one specific matter of personnel.

The motion was seconded by Ms. Lancaster and passed unanimously.

The vote was: Ellerbe, Lancaster, Miller, Mulé and Pomerico.

At 10:00 p.m., on a motion by Mr. Ellerbe and a second by Mr. Miller the Board returned to open session. The motion carried unanimously.

The vote was; Ellerbe, Lancaster, Miller, Mulé and Pomerico.

Adjournment

At 10:01 p.m. with no other business on a motion by Mr. Ellerbe and seconded by Mr. Pomerico, the Board adjourned the meeting.

The vote was unanimous, Ellerbe, Lancaster, Miller, Mulé and Pomerico.

Next Meeting

The next regularly scheduled Action meeting of the Board of Education will be on October 16, 2013, 7:30 p.m., at Bayview Avenue School.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary R. Bediako, Ed. D.
District Clerk